Message Text

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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PFOR, UN, XF, US

SUBJECT: QUESTION OF ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP FOR PLO IN ECWA

REF: A) STATE 149837; B) STATE 148786; C) LONDON 10705; D) BONN 10913; E) USUN 2089

- 1. USUN AND EMBASSIES LONDON AND BONN HAVE REPORTED CONVERSATIONS WITH WEST EUROPEANS INDICATING THAT WEO'S ARE BEGINNING TO THINK ABOUT ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP FOR PLO IN ECWA AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO FULL MEMBERSHIP.
- 2. USDEL SHOULD NOT INDICATE THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO GRANT ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP TO PLO WOULD MEET OUR NEEDS. IF YOU CONFIDENTIAL

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ARE ASKED ABOUT ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP, YOU MAY DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS:

-- PROPOSAL FOR PLO ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP IN ECWA RAISES ISSUES OF SUBSTANTIAL IMPORTANCE WITH IMPLICATIONS FOR UN SYSTEM.

-- THERE IS NO PRECEDENT IN THE UN SYSTEM FOR GRANTING ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP TO AN ENTITY SUCH AS THE PLO. ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP IN REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS

HAS BEEN GRANTED TO NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES OR TO STATES NOT MEMBERS OF THE REGIONS.

- -- ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP USUALLY ENTAILS THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN ALL THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION, WITH EXCEPTION OF THE RIGHT TO VOTE. IT INCLUDES THE RIGHT TO SIT ON COMMITTEES, AND IN SOME INSTANCES THE RIGHT TO BE OFFICERS OF ANY COMMITTEES OR OTHER SUB-ORDINATE BODIES OF THE ORGANIZATION. THESE ARE SIGNIFICANT PARTICIPATORY RIGHTS AND ENTAIL SIGNIFICANT RESPONSIBILITY. IN PAST, RIGHTS HAVE BEEN LIMITED TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF A TERRITORY, EVEN IF THAT TERRITORY WAS NOT FULLY SELF-GOVERNING, ON THE THEORY THAT IT MIGHT BE ABLE TO IMPLEMENT DECISIONS. LIBERATION MOVEMENTS DO NOT HAVE THE CAPACITY TO ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH SHOULD ATTACH TO POSSESSION OF THESE RIGHTS.
- -- UN SYSTEM HAS EVOLVED GENERAL PRACTICE THAT LIBERATION MOVEMENTS SHOULD RECEIVE NO MORE THAN OBSERVER STATUS. UN NOW HAS FAIRLY CONSISTENT PRACTICE REGARDING THE REQUIREMENTS OF MEMBERSHIP, ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP AND CONFIDENTIAL

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OBSERVER STATUS. GRANTING PLO ASSOCIATE STATUS WOULD RUN COUNTER TO THE PRINCIPLE THAT RIGHTS GRANTED TO AN ENTITY SHOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH OBLIGATIONS THE ORGANIZATION REQUIRES BE ASSUMED.

3. IN TALKING TO BRITISH, GERMANS AND OTHER WEO'S WHO RAISE QUESTION, YOU SHOULD SAY THAT ANY INDICATION ON THEIR PART THAT ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP IS A POSSIBLE COMPROMISE MIGHT ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO PURSUE OPTION OF FULL MEMBERSHIP STATUS. SOME NON-ALIGNED STATES IN PARTICULAR MIGHT VOTE FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP IF THEY KNOW THAT SOME WEO'S SUPPORT ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP SINCE THEY WOULD NOT WANT TO BACK WESTERN POSITION OVER THAT OF ARABS.

CHRISTOPHER

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